

# INFORMATION LETTER

Not for  
Publication

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members  
Only

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## Description of N.C.A. Headquarters To Be Erected in Washington

Plans and specifications for the new Association headquarters building at 1133 20th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., for which a building permit has been requested, call for a modern structure of three floors and basement providing 34,000 square feet of gross space.

The Eastern subcommittee of the Association's Buildings Committee will meet in New York City about April 1 to open bids and award a construction contract. Bids have been invited on the basis of plans and specifications prepared by Abbott, Merkt & Co., New York City.

Plans call for an L-shaped building with a frontage of 95 feet on the east side of 20th Street, N. W., and a depth of 140 feet 10 inches along an alley south of and adjacent to the N.C.A. property. Along 20th Street, on the short leg of the L, the building will be 50 feet deep, and on the long leg of the L it will be 50 feet wide.

The building will be of reinforced concrete construction, with stone facing on 20th Street and brick on the other exterior walls.

Open office space, with only limited use of ceiling-height partitions, is planned. Thus, offices will be separated for the most part only by corridors.

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## Labor Dept. Reorganization Proposed by Hoover Group

"The Department of Labor has lost much of its significance" and many agencies and functions should be restored to it, it was recommended this week by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (the Hoover Commission).

The Commission recommended transfer of "enforcement of labor standards in Government contracts from contracting departments and agencies." Its report explained that transfer of this function, together with the inspection and administration

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### On Other Pages

Canners' stocks and shipments of canned tomatoes, green and wax beans, and RSP cherries, as compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics, are reported on page 142.

The March 15th issue of "Research Notes" is ready for distribution. See story on page 142.

A new amendment to M-81 apparently envisions a smaller demand for cans. See story on page 144.

## Hearings on Corn Standards May Continue into Next Week

The public hearing on proposals to amend the definition and standard of identity and to establish standards of quality and fill of container for canned corn began March 15 in the Federal Security Administration offices in Washington, and continued through the week, with the possibility of continuing into next week.

The public hearings were preceded by several intensive preliminary conferences of representatives of all of the corn-canning areas with Association Counsel, held at Association headquarters beginning March 10.

Because of the different styles of pack, varieties, methods of examination, and problems relating to the significance of findings, the evidence to be put on record is voluminous and time-consuming.

Problems relating to the standard of identity were scheduled for first consideration, the standard of quality second, and finally fill of container.

Information on canned field corn and canned evaporated sweet corn has been incorporated in the record.

## House Labor Committee Files Report on Wage-Hour Bill

The House Committee on Education and Labor this week filed its formal report recommending approval by the House of the Lesinski bill, H. R. 3190, which would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act by broadening its coverage, limiting present exemptions, and raising the minimum wage rate.

The date when the bill will be considered by the House has not been announced by the House leadership, but it is expected that the measure will be brought up for debate in the near future, perhaps late next week.

As reported by the Committee and as was pointed out in last week's INFORMATION LETTER and in a special bulletin sent to the entire industry on March 11, H. R. 3190 would eliminate the existing exemptions from overtime contained in Sections 7(b)(3), 7(c), 13(a)(5) and 13(a)(10). In their place, the Committee proposes in H. R. 3190 a single exemption from overtime limited to 10 hours a day and 50 hours a week, and for whatever weekly periods the Secretary of Labor might determine to be necessary, up to a possible 20 weeks for canning perishable fresh fruits and vegetables and for a maximum of 14 weeks for canning of fish and seafoods.

The language of this exemption proposed by the Committee is reproduced in full on page 144.

## Label Recommendations Made On Peaches and Apricots

Four years of labeling studies of canned peaches and apricots were completed recently by a committee of fruit canners from the fruit-growing areas, who made recommendations for the voluntary labeling of these fruits for their ripeness. The fruit canners met March 10 at Santa Cruz, Calif., at the time of the annual convention of the Canners League of California.

The recommendations are being announced immediately by the Labeling Committee of the National Canners Association in the hope that the recommended label terms may be used on labels for the 1949 pack. (Please turn

The recommendations include two label terms:

The first is the label term "Ripe" to be applied only to those packs of peaches and apricots which, for ripeness only without any regard to any other factor such as size, blemishes, syrup, etc., qualify commercially as Fancy or Choice.

The second term, "May Vary in Ripeness," will apply to packs of these fruits which, for ripeness only without regard to any other factor such as size, blemishes, syrup, etc., qualify commercially as Standard.

The principles of these recommendations had been studied by canners for four years and have been reviewed with the advisory committee which represents the major distributor associations. The theory in all voluntary labeling has been that definitive and objective limits be set for each label term, rather than rely on individual judgment.

Limits for these two label terms were tentatively set by the fruit canner committee as follows:

Canned peaches and apricots are entitled to be labeled "Ripe" only when there is less green color than that indicated by the spectrophotometric index number 75. These fruits, to qualify for the label term "May Vary in Ripeness," must not contain, in the case of apricots, more green color than is indicated by the spectrophotometric index number 55, and in the case of peaches, by the index number 60. Judgment of any lot is to be made on the examination of at least six containers.

## DEATH

### Tom Martin

Tom Martin, 61, salesman with the Sprague-Sells Division of Food Machinery Corp., died March 12 following a heart attack about two weeks before, after the death of Neal Sells.

Mr. Martin was well known throughout the country as a salesman of canning machinery whose word could be relied on. He had planned to retire on reaching his 62nd birthday in July.

Born in England, Mr. Martin attended school in Hoopeston, Ill., and went to work in 1904. He joined the Sprague company when still a young man.

He is survived by his wife, the former Sadie C. McCoy, and one son.

## STATISTICS

### Canners' Fruit and Vegetable Stocks and Shipments

Canners' stocks and shipments of canned green and wax beans and canned tomatoes as of February 1 and of canned red pitted cherries as of March 1 have been compiled by the Association's Division of Statistics.

#### Green and Wax Beans

February 1, 1949, canner stocks of green and wax beans totaled 3.5 million actual cases compared with 3.6 million cases on the same date a year ago. The February 1, 1949, canner stocks included 2,487,674 actual cases of green beans and 1,020,228 actual cases of wax beans, whereas in February, 1948, the stocks were 3,368,009 cases of green beans and 375,370 cases of wax beans.

Shipments of 1,388,990 actual cases during January, 1949, were about 44 percent greater than in January, 1948. The movement consisted of 1,170,997 cases of green beans and 217,993 cases of wax beans, as compared with 1948 shipments during January of 712,958 cases of green beans and 73,689 cases of wax beans.

The February 1, 1949, canner stocks of green and wax beans on the basis of 24/2's amounted to 3,729,000 cases as compared with 3,798,000 cases on February 1, 1948.

#### Stocks and Shipments Green and Wax Beans

	1947-48 (actual cases)	1948-49 (actual cases)
Carryover, July 1.....	1,886,500	218,582
Pack .....	12,142,889	14,138,205
Supply .....	13,529,889	14,351,787
Canner stocks, Feb. 1....	3,595,980	8,507,902
Shipment during Jan....	964,897	1,388,990
Shipments, July 1 to Feb. 1	9,982,909	10,848,885

#### Red Pitted Cherries

Canner stocks of red pitted cherries March 1, 1949, amounted to 280,519 actual cases, compared with 105,157 actual cases in canners' hands March 1, 1948.

Shipments of 168,732 actual cases during February, 1949, compare with 77,313 cases shipped by canners during February, 1948.

#### Red Pitted Cherry Stocks and Shipments

	1948-1949 (actual cases)
Pack .....	3,552,210
March 1 stocks .....	280,519
Shipments during Feb....	168,732
Shipments, July 1 to March 1....	3,371,691

### Canned Tomatoes

January, 1949, shipments of canned tomatoes totaling 2,290,714 actual cases were about 80 percent greater than shipments of 1,269,794 cases during January, 1948.

February 1, 1949, canner stocks of 9.7 million cases were about 33 percent greater than the 7.3 million cases on hand on the same date a year ago.

On the basis of 24/2's, the February 1, 1949, stocks amounted to 11,353,000 cases, as compared with 8,864,000 cases on February 1, 1948.

#### Canner Stocks and Shipments Canned Tomatoes

	1947-48 (actual cases)	1948-49 (actual cases)
Carryover, July 1.....	362,295	1,949,713
Pack .....	23,986,093	21,466,688
Supply .....	24,349,288	23,416,401
Total stocks, Feb. 1....	7,286,216	9,743,100
Shipments during Jan....	1,269,794	2,290,714
Shipments, July 1 to Feb. 1.....	17,063,072	13,673,801

## RAW PRODUCTS

### Research Notes

The March 15th issue of "Research Notes" is now ready for distribution to canners or their field men upon request directed to the Association's Raw Products Bureau. This issue contains notes on experiment station bulletins and circulars which discuss cost studies of a number of crops including sweet cherries and pole beans in the Northwest; the economic status of California clingstone peaches and asparagus; growing blackberries, cranberries and asparagus; simplifying tomato factory operations; processing Washington-grown freestone peaches; control of seed seedlings; farm land prices in the Midwest; and agriculture of the Willamette Valley, Ore.

### Labor Department Reorganization

(Concluded from page 141)

tion of industrial hygiene from the Public Health Service, would eliminate overlapping responsibilities at the Federal level and would assist in correcting imbalance between State labor and health agencies.

The Commission report noted that "the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions have a field service including a factory inspection service to administer the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Walsh-Healey Act."

The Commission noted that the United States Employment Service was transferred in 1939 to the Federal Security Agency, where it has remained except for the period from 1945 to 1948, and that the Immigration and Naturalization Service was transferred to the Justice Department in 1940. However, no recommendations were made with regard to the location of these agencies.

The report did recommend transfer of the following agencies to the Labor Department: Bureau of Employees Compensation from the Federal Security Agency, Employees Compensation Appeals Board from the FSA, Bureau of Employment Security from the FSA, and Division of Industrial Hygiene from the USPHS in FSA.

### N.C.A. Headquarters Building

(Concluded from page 141)

ridors in the center of each leg of the L. The building will be air-conditioned and will have fluorescent lighting. It will contain an elevator intended for both passengers and freight.

In general, the basement will house the pilot plant and accessory machinery, the first floor will contain the Secretary's Office and offices of several Divisions, the second floor will contain the Home Economics and Claims Divisions and the administrative offices of the Research Laboratories, and the third floor will be laboratory space.

A feature of the first floor will be a conference room, with a raised platform at one end and an estimated seating capacity of 88. Adjoining the Office of the Secretary will be two small workrooms for the use of canners or for conferences among a few persons.

Visitors will find information at the telephone switchboard located adjacent to the lobby at the first floor main entrance to the building.

In addition to the Secretary and his staff, the first floor will contain offices for the Office of the Treasurer, the Information Division, Labeling Division, Fishery Products Division, Statistics Division, and Raw Products Bureau.

The Home Economics Division, Claims Division, administrative offices of the Research Laboratories and library will share the second floor. A feature of the Home Economics Division layout is a modern duo-kitchen for the development of both family-size and institutional recipes and a



Artist's rendition of the laboratory and administrative headquarters of the National Canners Association to be erected at 1133 20th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

combination dining and photography room for group testing of recipes and the preparation of food photographs. The dining room also will be used on occasion as a conference room and for lectures to various groups interested in dietetics and nutrition.

Except for two offices for laboratory group leaders, the entire third floor will be devoted to laboratories and their supplemental service areas. The division of space and design of facilities have been made in accordance with the several functions of the Research Laboratories, e.g., bacteriology, processing, chemistry, nutrition, sanitation, waste disposal and microanalysis, and promise to furnish a workable and flexible arrangement.

Units using like equipment will be grouped; for example, the chemistry, nutrition and waste disposal-sanitation laboratories, comprising nearly half the direct laboratory area, will be in a single continuous space marked off by barriers such as hoods or storage cabinets instead of partitions. Similarly, the bacteriological laboratory will be divided into two sections, one for service and one for research, by a row of incubator cabinets accessible from both sides. A separate cutting room will permit examination of large groups of samples without interference with other laboratory work.

The basement space, aside from the heating, air conditioning and general

service areas, is divided between the Laboratories (pilot plant and storage rooms) and the mail and duplicating service, including storage of stationery and supplies.

## MEETINGS

### McGovern, Campbell Speak At West Coast Meetings

President John F. McGovern addressed the Southern California Food Processors Association at its meeting in Los Angeles March 15, and Secretary Carlos Campbell spoke at the 13th Annual N.C.A. Canned Salmon Production Conference in Seattle March 16.

Mr. McGovern urged canners to join with all other businessmen to do their share in selling the American way of life—the free enterprise system. He pointed out that under that system Americans have improved their diet since 1910 “by eating three times as many oranges and citrus fruits, more than twice as much canned fish and canned vegetables, and four times as much canned fruit.”

Mr. Campbell said that “you eat what you want, if your pocketbooks permit, whether or not the food is loaded with vitamins, minerals or pro-



teins." But, he added, "canned fish possesses not only taste appeal but is abundant in nutrient values, and Mrs. Housewife is lucky, too, because buying on a taste impulse she gets an extra dividend of dietary values."

### Brokers Convention Program

The program of the 44th annual convention of the National Food Brokers Association to be held in Chicago next week is featured by a "Candid Conference" of brokers and principals on Monday, with the balance of the week devoted to individual broker-principal conferences.

The general convention session will open on Monday with a "Candid Conference" in which four representatives of the manufacturing and processing function and four brokers will speak. They are:

Edward J. Laucks, Pennsylvania Cannery Association; Harry MacConaughy, Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Inc.; Ward H. Patten, Minnesota Valley Canning Co.; H. E. Woodford, Perkins Products Co.; S. N. Bearman, S. N. Bearman Brokerage Co.; Leo D. Gatlin, Mailliard & Schmiedell; E. Norton Reusswig, Lestrade Bros.; and Hill White, Sr., Hill White Co.

### M-81 Restrictions on Use Of Tin in Ends of Cans Eased

Elimination of certain restrictions on the amount of tin which may be used in the manufacture of cans for packing certain food products was among the changes in Allocation Order M-81 announced March 14 by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Effective immediately, the amendment eliminated special quota restrictions on the amount of tin which may be used in the manufacture of beer and animal food cans, but did not affect the limitation on tin consumption in the over-all manufacture of cans. The amendment also provides for:

(1) Use of quarter-pound tinplate for the non-soldered parts of cans for certain food products (containing less than 12 percent liquid, for example) on which use of tinplate in these parts previously had been prohibited.

(2) Addition of scallops to the list of fish products which may be packed in tinplate cans.

(3) Use of quarter-pound tinplate in coffee cans smaller than the two-pound size.

## CONGRESS

### Changes in Wage-Hour Law Proposed by Lesinski Bill

Exemption from maximum hours for fruit, vegetable, and fish canners recommended by House Labor Committee in H. R. 3190:

Sec. 7. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no employer shall employ any of his employees who is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and no employer who is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce shall employ any of his employees employed in or about or in connection with any enterprise where he is so engaged, for a workweek longer than forty hours, unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the hours above specified at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he is employed.

(b) No employer shall be deemed to have violated subsection (a) by employing any employee for a workweek in excess of that specified in such subsection without paying the compensation for overtime employment prescribed therein if such employee receives compensation for employment in excess of ten hours in any workday, or for employment in excess of fifty hours in any workweek, as the case may be, at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he is employed, and if such employee is so employed—

... (3) for a period or periods of not more than fourteen workweeks in the aggregate in the calendar year (a) in any industry found by the Secretary to be of a seasonal nature, or (b) in any other industry engaged in the handling or packing or storing or pre-

paring or in the first processing or canning of agricultural or horticultural commodities in their raw or natural state or of fish or other aquatic form of animal or vegetable life or in the processing of cottonseed or the ginning or compressing of cotton, or in the slaughtering and dressing of poultry or in the making of dairy products, if such industry is found by the Secretary to be characterized by marked annually recurring seasonal peaks of operation: Provided, That when the Secretary finds that in an industry engaged in the handling or packing or storing or preparing, or in the first processing or canning of fresh fruits and vegetables an additional number of weeks of exemption are required to prevent the spoilage of such perishable fresh fruits and vegetables, he is authorized to extend the exemption for additional weeks not to exceed a total of six.

Exemptions from wages and hours for fishermen proposed by House Labor Committee in H. R. 3190:

Sec. 13. (b) The provisions of sections 6 and 7 shall not apply with respect to . . . (2) any employee employed in the catching, taking, propagating, harvesting, cultivating, or farming of any kind of fish, shellfish, crustacea, sponges, seaweeds, or other aquatic forms of animal and vegetable life, including the going to and returning from work and including employment in the loading and unloading, when performed by any such employee, and in the icing, cleaning, salting, or other preparation of such products in their raw state for shipment from the place of unloading to market or to processors.

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